



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

813-645-2323

<http://weather.gov/tampa>

NWS Ruskin Celebrates Third Annual Scout Day

February 14, 2011

On Saturday, February 12, the National Weather Service in Ruskin hosted the third annual Scout Day. This was the largest event yet, and was attended by 164 scouts, leaders, parents, and family members from several packs and troops from Tampa Bay area counties. The scouts in attendance were of all ages, ranging from Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts to Boy and Girl Scouts, many of whom were able to satisfy requirements for weather badges and loops. The event gave an opportunity for local scouts to learn how the National Weather Service office works to keep the community safe.

As in years past, the event featured a three step tour through the NWS facility. Scouts began with an introductory presentation on the National Weather Service mission, which also covered instruction in weather safety as it applies to outdoor activities. As residents of the lightning capital of the country, Florida scouts are especially sensitive to hazardous weather in their group activities. Scouts and their leaders learned the importance of making a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio a part of all their outings.

Following their introduction, scouts were lead on a tour of the recently redesigned and upgraded Forecast Operations area. The tour included demonstrations involving use of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System and the local NWS web page. The Situational Awareness Display was demonstrated and the tour groups saw how new technology makes the critical lifesaving mission of the NWS become a daily reality.

Scouts finished up their tour with the outdoor facilities, including data collection and upper air observations. They were able to see a weather balloon and learn about how the local NWS office supports the nationwide program that forms the backbone of upper air observations and computer model forecasting.

The event was once again a success for both the local scouting groups and the NWS Ruskin office. With 164 scouts in attendance, it was the largest crowd in the event's three year history. Tours were led by NWS meteorologists **Logan Johnson, Anthony Reynes, Nicole Carlisle, and Dan Noah**. Special thanks also goes to Mack Darr, local scouter from the Timucua District, who handled all the registrations from the hundreds of scouts eager to learn more about how the local National Weather Service provides products and services to the residents of west central and southwest Florida.



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The new technologies of the situational awareness display were shown to scouts lead by NWS Forecaster Anthony Reynes



NWS Senior Forecaster and Eagle Scout Logan Johnson briefed scouts on the role of their local NWS Office.



NWS Meteorologist Intern Nicole Carlisle demonstrated the upper air observing equipment to groups of visiting scouts



Area Girl Scouts were among hundreds of visitors participating in the largest version yet of the popular annual event.